

CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

August 9, 2007

Old Redmond School House, Room 105

"Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors"

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Tom Flynn, Vice Chair John Stilin, Latha Sambamurti, Eva Moon, and Kamal Siegel

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Jill Krusinski

STAFF PRESENT: Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Division Manager; Meagan Farrell, Recording Secretary

YOUTH ADVOCATES PRESENT:

GUESTS PRESENT:

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AGENDA

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tom Flynn called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:03 p.m. at the Old Redmond School House, Room 105.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the RAC minutes of July 12, 2007 with corrections carried without objection:

- **XA. Add "Thanks to Pat, volunteer, for pulling the supplies cart."**
- **XB. Change to read "Arts in the Park."**
- **XI. Add "Vice Chair Stilin brought up the concern that as part of the reorganization process we had a rule that said all items that were brought to a vote would go through subcommittee for review and recommendation. This did not happen." Debra**

Churchill responded that the City reserved the right to bring anything to RAC to vote on."

- **XIII. Change "...Yelanjian about her..." to "...Yelanjian about Mary's idea..."**

III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- VI.A - Add Redmond Arts Jam, Moon
- VII – Add Ordinance that created RAC, Stilin

Motion for approval of the revised RAC agenda of August 9, 2007 carried without objection.

IV. CHAIR REPORTS

A. Chair Report – Flynn

Chair Flynn is reviewing the strategic plan and has made some changes. He is looking at this as a strategic plan for Art in Redmond vs. a strategic plan just for RAC.

B. Vice Chair Report - Stilin

Vice Chair Stilin agreed with Chair Flynn's assessment of the strategic plan.

V. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

No audience members present.

VI. STAFF REPORT – Bettencourt

- A. **Percent for Art** – The public has been viewing the art and comments are coming in. Grass Lawn is a bit delayed with some architectural issues, but everything else is on schedule.
- B. **Digital Arts and Gaming Festival** – Yelanjian is currently at the Siggraph 2007 event. She called and said she has gathered lots of information. Yelanjian has obtained \$5,000 in grant money from 4Culture and the Paul Allen Foundation has accepted a letter of intent from her. She is looking into more grant options as well.
- C. **Arts in the Parks Attendance** – There were actually 80 people who attended the Show Brazil performance.
- D. **Arts Commissioner Recruitment** – Three candidates will be interviewed next week. Vice Chair Stilin stated he knew one of the candidates and felt that they would be a great addition to RAC.

VII. WINTER PERFORMANCE SERIES RECOMMENDATIONS -

Sambamurti

The programming committee along with community members Pat and Sergey, went through audition tapes. The group unanimously proposes the following performers as a family entertainment package to perform at the Redmond Performance Center (pending contract negotiations and availability of the performers):

- Seattle Mime Theatre
- Brothers from Different Mothers (different show from last year)
- Circus Contraption

Yelanjian will work with groups to finalize performances which will take place between December 2007 and March 2008. Publicity for events will be discussed at the next meeting. Currently advertising includes mailers, website blurbs, fliers to schools and local businesses, etc. The programming committee is looking for more ways to advertise. ***If RAC has ideas, they can email Sambamurti or bring them to the next meeting.***

Bettencourt will ask Yelanjian to look into city ordinances around using banners and sandwich boards. If people buy tickets for all three shows, they will receive a discount.

INTERMISSION – Commissioner Moon read poems from Arts Jam. ***Moon will email these poems to Lysaght to be posted on the website and to be submitted to Focus magazine.***

VIII. PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE - Sambamurti

The Summer Arts in the Parks Series went as follows:

- Geoffrey Castle – slightly delayed due to technical problems. After that, all went well. 200-250 people attended.
- Show Brazil – There was a nice article and photos in the Redmond Reporter about this. Despite the heavy rain, there were 80 attendees. Great feedback was received for this show. The event sponsor IZZY passed out free drinks, which people loved.
- Arts Jam – 70-75 people attended this first time event. Henna hand art was done, which people loved. An idea for the next Arts Jam is to have pre-selected songs for people to practice ahead of time. Commissioner Moon stated that for a first time event, this was a success. She said the band was wonderful! They put the participants at ease and did a great job. Thanks to Clint McCune who was the MC for the event and thanks to RASP. It was suggested that chalk art should be included at more events as it was a huge success as well.

Yelanjian would like to do the Arts Jam quarterly. This will be discussed in more detail at the Programming Committee. Vice Chair

Stilin inquired about having a reader board in Redmond for advertising events. This idea will also be discussed in the programming committee.

- Outdoor Painting – Five painters from EAFA were there painting. There was nice weather for the event.
- “Two Gentlemen from Verona” - There were approximately 275 attendees, despite the cold weather. Both the actors and audience liked the venue.
- “Merchant of Venice” – There were 450 attendees at this event.

Next Saturday Billet Deux will be performing. RAC is encouraged to attend. Vice Chair Stilin stated that it would be nice to know if these attendees are City of Redmond residents or tourists. Commissioner Sambamurti will conduct a straw poll at the next event.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE – Stilin

Vice Chair Stilin read excerpts from the RAC ordinance. Stilin said that the RAC was formed to have nine appointed committee members and they make up the Commission's rules and procedures. Stilin gave an example that the Commission could change the day they meet if they wanted to. Stilin felt it was important for the RAC to have a set of rules to operate by. This would allow them to function more professionally. Stilin said that the ordinance should be in the handbook as well. Bettencourt said that historically that the ordinance was in the handbook. Bettencourt said that the handbook was being updated and revised prior to the strategic planning process; however the project has been stopped until the strategic planning is completed. Bettencourt said that she would have staff give the Commissioners who did not have a handbook copies of what currently exists.

Stilin brought up his concern regarding staff's decision to take action on “Art Outside the Box” without taking it to committee first. Stilin felt that action conflicted with what was discussed in the strategic planning process. Stilin felt that the Art Outside the Box action item was setting a bad precedent for making decisions in the RAC. Bettencourt, clarified that the Commission does not make formal authorizing decisions, rather the Commission makes the decision to recommendation or advise.

Bettencourt said that it was unfortunate that the Art Outside the Box was added after the agenda went out, and that she understood that staff had tried to contact the chair and vice-chair to let them know that the item was going to be added. Bettencourt said that it would be impractical to bring all business items to subcommittees. Flynn interjected that the City would not be able to get their work done. Bettencourt agreed and said that philosophically staff tries to bring as many business items before the full commission as possible. Bettencourt said that they have many business

items from outside departments and community organizations like Metro for example, who cannot have their processes delayed but would like to inform or gain feedback from the RAC as part of their development processes that have arts elements. Stilin and Flynn both agreed that there still needs to be better defined roles and responsibilities as soon as possible.

RAC is asked to review the ordinance before the next meeting. This ordinance can be found on the city arts website. Bettencourt will make sure that all RAC members get the operations manual that we currently have.

X. INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE REPORT - Moon

There was no committee meeting last month. Commissioner Moon has conflicts with the next two meeting dates, so she will email the committee notes for the upcoming meeting to be presented for discussion. Two things that the committee needs to work on are ways to get the businesses more involved as venues (Clint McCune will be a good resource for this) and looking at potential venues and spaces. The committee needs to take inventory or what is available in the city to use. Moon wants to come up with a plan for this process.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None

XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Vice Chair Stilin

Second by: Commissioner Sambamurti

Motion carried: 5-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Meagan Farrell.

**NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:
September 13, 2007
Old Redmond School House Community Center
7:00 p.m.**

Redmond Arts Commission

Meeting: August 9, 2007

Audience Present

Please note: Information provided at this public meeting becomes part of the City's permanent record.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE